

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-10 and 18-27 without prejudice.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A method comprising:

forming a first metal layer on a first dielectric layer; ~~and~~

forming a second dielectric layer on the first metal layer;

forming a second metal layer on the second dielectric layer;

patterning the second metal layer such that signal traces are formed in the second metal layer;

patterning the first metal layer ~~being patterned~~ as a substantially continuous sheet having slots formed therein in a substantially rectangular pattern to allow the first and second dielectric layers to adhere to each other by way of the slots; and

adjusting an orientation of at least some of the slots in the substantially rectangular pattern such that none of the signal traces passes over any of the slots.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein each of the slots has a length:width ratio of at least 5:1.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the length:width ratio of each slot is at least 10:1.

14. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the slots are arrayed substantially in a face-centered rectangular pattern.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein rectangular cells of the pattern have an aspect ratio of substantially 1.73:1.

16. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein a first one of the slots has an orientation that is at an angle relative to an orientation of a second one of the slots.

17. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein each of the slots has a width dimension of substantially 50 microns.

18-27. (canceled)